

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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SUBJECT:TRAVEL OF AMERICAN CITIZENS TO VIETNAM

REF: JAKARTA 10593

1.GUIDANCE WHICH YOU PROVIDED TO ITT REPRESENTATIVE
WAS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT. ALSO, YOUR INFORMATION THAT A
BANK OF AMERICA REPRESENTATIVE HAS TRAVELLED TO HANOI IS
ACCURATE. THE TRIP, HOWEVER, WAS NEITHER ENCOURAGED
NOR APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT. SUBSEQUENTLY A REPRESENTA-
TIVE OF ANOTHER U.S. BANK INQUIRED ABOUT MAKING A SIMILAR
TRIP AND WE REPLIED ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

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2. AT THIS TIME WE WOULD NOT ENCOURAGE VISITS BY AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN TO EITHER NORTH OR SOUTH VIETNAM WHERE WE HAVE NO REPRESENTATION WHICH COULD PROVIDE PROTECTION TO AMERICAN CITIZENS. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD DISCOURAGE TRAVEL TO SOUTH VIETNAM IN LIGHT OF UNSETTLED CONDITIONS THERE AND THE FACT THAT COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES ARE STILL HOLDING TEN AMERICAN CIVILIANS TAKEN PRISONER IN MARCH AND APRIL AND ARE PROBABLY IMPEDING THE DEPARTURE OF SOME OF THE ESTIMATED 60 OR MORE AMERICANS WHO REMAINED

THERE FOLLOWING THE EVACUATION.

3. FORMAL TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO NORTH VIETNAM AND PROSPECTIVE AMERICAN TRAVELERS MUST APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT (PASSPORT OFFICE) FOR VALIDATION OF PASSPORT FOR TRAVEL TO THAT AREA. WHILE NO FORMAL RESTRICTIONS APPLY AT PRESENT TO SOUTH VIETNAM, AS NOTED ABOVE WE WOULD STRONGLY DISCOURAGE TRAVEL THERE.

4. UNDER CURRENT U.S. FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL REGULATIONS ALL FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS WITH NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM ARE SUBJECT TO TREASURY LICENSE. THUS ALL AMERICAN TRAVELERS TO VIETNAM MUST MAKE APPLICATION TO TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL, FOR LICENSE COVERING EXPENDITURES CONNECTED WITH TRAVEL TO AND FROM VIETNAM AND LIVING EXPENSES WHILE THERE.

5. FINALLY, WE WOULD EMPHASIZE THAT WHILE BUSINESS DISCUSSIONS WITH VIETNAMESE SUBJECT TO ASSETS AND/OR EXPORT CONTROLS ARE NOT IN THEMSELVES PROHIBITED, LICENSES FROM TREASURY AND/OR COMMERCE ARE REQUIRED BEFORE ANY TYPE OF AGREEMENT OR UNDERTAKINGS ARE CONCLUDED. UNDER PRESENT POLICIES, SUCH LICENSES ARE DENIED.

END UNCLASSIFIED. INGERSOLL

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